Monday 14th December 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We usually only write at the end of the school year, however thought that it would be appropriate to write at the end of the Autumn term for what has been an unprecedented and challenging year.

We, as Governors, wanted to thank you for your flexibility and adaptability which has helped the school run as near to normal as possible. We know that there have been many challenges over the year which has meant we have needed to make changes to the way we would usually do things such as home schooling, staggered drop off and collection times being just a couple of examples.

The children have been great and quickly adapted to the new ways of working and without fuss. Hopefully, as we move into 2021, a degree of normality will return. However, as we have all found out through 2020 nothing is ever certain.

This year we have seen a number of new Governors join the board: Richard Gallagher and Chris Day. They are already making a significant contribution.

This year, we haven’t been able to visit the school as often as we would have liked. However, we have held meetings about Pupil Premium and the SEND work which Sarah Knight is leading so well. We can already see the results from Mrs. Walker’s new organisational structure starting to pay dividends – the timing of which was perfect.

The Governors would also like to thank the PTA for all their work this year. It’s not been easy and we appreciate all their efforts to raise funds for the school which is always needed.

However, there is a lot to be proud of as we enter 2021: we are seeing good progress in learning for all the children; attendance has been very good; we have a full complement of excellent teaching staff and the finances are strong, therefore we are cautiously optimistic about what 2021 will bring.

It only leaves us to thank you again, and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

**Russell Lower School Board of Governors**